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**APR 08 2008**

*PATENT*

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus for a system, comprising:

a device that receives incoming encoded signals and provides decoded audio signals for use by the system;

audio conversion circuitry that produces ultrasonic signals based on the decoded audio signals provided by said device; and

a directional speaker that outputs an ultrasonic output for a user based on the ultrasonic signals,

wherein said apparatus further comprises a beam-attribute control unit operatively connected to said directional speaker, said beam-attribute control unit being configured to electronically control an attribute of the output of said directional speaker, and

wherein the ultrasonic output generates audio output,

wherein the attribute controlled influences a beam width of the ultrasonic audio output of said directional speaker so that the beam width of the ultrasonic audio output can be changed, and

wherein the beam-attribute control unit is configured to change the beam width of the audio output of said directional speaker through electronic, not mechanical, mechanisms.

2. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said system is one of an audio system, a stereo system, a television system, a radio receiver, a Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) player, a compact disc (CD) player, and a Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) player.

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3. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said directional speaker is repositionable with respect to said system.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the attribute controlled influences the direction of the ~~ultrasonic~~ audio output of said directional speaker.
6. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the attribute controlled ~~depends on the position of a user of said system or~~ depends on a remote controller for said system.
7. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said directional speaker has a plurality of separately controllable regions, and wherein said beam-attribute control unit activates one or more of the controllable regions to control the ~~ultrasonic~~ audio output from said directional speaker.
8. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said directional speaker has a curved surface, which can be a curved emitting surface or a curved reflecting surface, so that the ~~ultrasonic~~ audio output produced is intentionally configured to be non-collinear.

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9. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising one additional directional speaker to create stereo effect.

10. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises a personalization unit operatively connected to said audio conversion circuitry, said personalization unit modifies the audio signals or the ultrasonic signals in accordance with an audio characteristic associated with a user the user of said apparatus.

11. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the audio characteristic is provided to said directional audio delivery apparatus in a removable, portable data storage device that can be electrically connected to said apparatus.

12. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the audio characteristic pertains to a hearing characteristic and/or a hearing preference associated with the user.

13. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said directional audio delivery apparatus further comprises an environmental adjustment unit that is configured to modify the audio signals or the ultrasonic signals in accordance with a piece of information from ~~related to~~ the environment in the vicinity of a portable device used by a user the user of said apparatus.

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14. (Previously presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein the piece of information is determined based on a position of the portable device, or wherein the piece of information includes a noise level.

15. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic output from said directional speaker is reflected by at least one reflecting surface before propagating into the free space where a user the user of the apparatus is positioned, as the directionally-constrained audio output.

16. (Currently amended) A method for providing directionally constrained audio to a user using a directional speaker, said method comprising:

receiving audio signals to be delivered to the user from an audio device;

receiving a beam attribute input; and

driving the directional speaker to generate the directionally constrained audio,

wherein the beam attribute input controls at least one attribute of the directionally constrained audio,

wherein the method further comprises converting the audio signals to ultrasonic signals,

wherein the beam attribute input controls a reflector associated with the directional speaker, and

wherein said driving includes at least driving the directional speaker in accordance with the ultrasonic signals to produce ultrasonic output for providing the directionally constrained audio, and

wherein the method further comprises increasing the ultrasonic frequency of the ultrasonic signals so as to increase the width of the beam of the directionally constrained audio.

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17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said method further comprises altering the orientation of the directional speaker.

19. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the beam attribute depends on a distance or a position of an object.

20. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the beam attribute input being received is automatically provided, not based on an input entered by the user.

21. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16,  
 wherein said method further comprises providing conventional audio,  
 wherein the beam attribute input selects output from either one of the  
 directionally-constrained audio or the conventional audio,  
 wherein the audio signals are transformed into ultrasonic signals if  
 directionally-constrained audio is selected, and  
 wherein the audio signals are not transformed into ultrasonic signals if  
 conventional audio output is selected.

22. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16,  
 wherein the directional speaker has a plurality of segments to emit the  
 directionally constrained audio and  
 wherein the segments can be individually controlled for emitting the  
 directionally constrained audio.

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23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the attribute controls at least one of the many segments to affect the width or the direction of the directionally constrained audio.

25. (New) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the beam-attribute control unit is configured to change the beam width of the audio output of said directional speaker so that the beam width is diverging around the vicinity of the user.